



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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JUL 18 1975

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TO: The Secretary

FROM: ARA - William D. Rogers

Ambassador David H. Popper's Office Call on You  
Friday, July 18, at 5:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS

The Secretary

Ambassador Popper  
William D. Rogers, Assistant  
Secretary for Inter-  
American Affairs  
John Karkashian (notetaker)

CHECKLIST

- The economic situation in Chile today.
- USG posturing on the human rights issue.
- The human rights issue in Congress.
- The military assistance problem.

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Chile Project (#S199900006)  
U.S. Department of State  
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Exemption(s) ☐

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SETTING

Ambassador Popper is winding up five days of consultation in Washington.

BACKGROUND

As you know, the United Nations Human Rights Commission Working Group was scheduled to visit Chile July 10. On July 4 President Pinochet "withdrew" permission for the visit until a more "propitious time". His decision has probably precluded favorable Congressional consideration for a Military Assistance Program in Chile for FY-76. Congressional critics probably may also seek to curtail economic assistance to Chile, including PL-480.

Chile agreed to the Working Group visit at the February meeting of the UNHRC. Citing the visit, Chile was able, with our support, to prevent a resolution passing on the Inter-American Human Rights Commission report at the OASGA last May. At the time, we made a forthcoming statement on human rights and assured Congressman Fraser and other critics that Chile was making progress on the human rights issue. Our tactics, and the happy results of the OAS General Assembly, were all based on Chile's invitation to the UN Working Group.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS

1. The Economic Situation in Chile

Chile faces a grave financial crisis in major part due to the collapse of the international copper market price. The GOC has instituted a severe program of economic discipline. Our help is important. Ambassador

Ambassador Popper will brief you on the current situation.

2. USG Posturing About the Human Rights Issue

In your speech you pointed out that the issue is not whether we condone repressive practices; of

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course we do not. "Rather, it is whether we can promote human rights more effectively by counsel and friendly relations where this serves our interest, or by confrontational propaganda and discriminatory legislation".

Your Talking Points

-- Your speech of July 15 in <sup>Minneapolis</sup> Milwaukee addressed this problem.

-- As you noted, experience has taught us that confrontations are too public, too inflexible, and too great a stimulus to nationalistic resentment. We will avoid harassing the GOC publicly.

3. The Human Rights Issue in Congress

Congressman's Fraser's letter to you of July 14 expresses his concern about the "postponement" of the UNHRC Working Group visit to Chile. Fraser's view is widespread. Our estimate is that the GOC decision will create new and more serious problems in Congress for military and economic assistance programs to Chile.

Your Talking Points

-- You addressed the problem of restrictive legislation in your <sup>Minneapolis</sup> Milwaukee speech. We oppose it:

-- But the GOC's recent action cancelling the Working Group has served to exacerbate the situation and make our own efforts to help more difficult.

4. The Military Assistance Problem

Chilean leaders are obsessed with Peru's continuing military acquisitions, especially from the Soviets. The Chileans think Peru may try to reconquer territory lost to Chile during the War of the Pacific. The GOC seeks to buy defensive arms from us, since European sources are now closed to them.

Your Talking Points

-- Congress will oppose any military aid now!

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-- Congressional attitudes on arms sales will harden now, and will not change until Chile's human rights practices seem to improve.

Drafted:ARA/BC:RDriscoll:bjd

Concurrences:ARA/BC:JEKarkashian      Ambassador Popper

[REDACTED]  
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